generating companies owned or controlled by the Central Government and promotion of competition, efficiency and economy in the activities of the electricity industry. The Central Commission while determining the terms and conditions for fixation of tarif is guided by the principle *inter alia* that generating companies may earn an adequate return and at the same time they do not exploit their dominant position in generation, sale of electricity.

The Central government deleted the provisions of section 43A(2) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 with effect from 15th May, 1999 in exercise of powers under section 51 of the ERC Act, 1998. The Government of India had informed CERC in June 1999 that while regulating tariff they would be free to depart from the norms fixed *vide* the 1992 tariff notification.

CERC issued orders on 4.1.2000, 15.12.2000, 21.12.2000 on Availability Based Tariff (ABT) and Tariff Principles/Norms. In addition to being a performance-based tariff for the supply of power by central generating stations, the ABT is aimed at incentivising maintenance of grid discipline. By these orders CERC revised the norms fixed by the Central Government in the tariff notification of 1992. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has estimated a reduction in revenue to the tune of Rs. 981 crore in the current financial year due to the orders of the CERC.

CERC has also allowed NTPC to charge 5% of capacity charge in every bill as development surcharge to met the requirement of funds for enhanced capacity addition. NTPC has not taken into account the earning which it would get from this surcharge while estimating the reduction in revenue.

Defence Intelligence Agency

*88 SHRIMATI VANGA GHEETHA:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken to set up Defence Intelligence Agency to strengthen the National Security System; and

(b) how the functioning of different service intelligence directorates is proposed to be coordinated?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Government have issued orders for establishment of the Defence Intelligence Agency on 9th February 2002.

(b) It will not be in the national interest to divulge details regarding the functional and operational aspects of coordination between various intelligence directorates of the Services.

Decrease in export of readymade garments

†*89. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of readymade garments to quota fixed countries and non-quota fixed countries has decreased during the first nine months of current year in comparison to the corresponding period of last year;

(b) if so, the value of export made during the current year and during the corresponding period of last year; and

(c) the reasons for shortfall in the exports?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) During the first nine months of the year, 2001 i.e. January-September, readymade garments exports amounted to US $ 3913.7 million as against the exports of US$ 4251.4 million during the same period of 2000, recording a negative growth of 7.9%.

(c) The recent trend in textile exports is mainly due to a general slowdown in the economies of some of our major trading partners like the US and increased competition from countries like China, Bangladesh etc.

Increase in terrorist activities along LoC

*90. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there had been a perceptible increase in the pattern of terrorist activities along the Line of Control;

(b) if so, the details thereof since 1st January, 2002 till date; and

(c) Government's reaction in regard thereto?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.